(iii) Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need;

(iv) Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases;

(v) Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

The ICWF would be funded through budgetary support from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, funds raised by the Indian Missions by levying a service charge on consular services and through Voluntary contributions from the Indian community. The Fund will be administered by the respective Heads of Missions.

(c) and (d) Complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers against unauthorized intermediaries in the host countries are received by the Ministry from time to time. The complaints are referred to Indian Missions abroad for investigation and redressing the grievances of the overseas workers. The Heads of Missions in the Gulf Region have also been requested to identify the sponsors and intermediaries operating in the Gulf who are bringing migrant workers illegally, so that suitable action can be taken against the culprits.

University for NRIs

811. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to set up any NRI Universities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of NRI Universities proposed to be set up by Government and the time by which they are proposed to be established;

(d) whether Government has advertised for setting up the NRI Universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The task of setting up the first PIOs/NRI university has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET). Expressions of Interest for setting up four more universities at places other than Benguluru have been received.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In response to advertisements published in February and June 2009 calling for Expressions of Interest (EOIs), 60 proposals have been received.